



2009 California Trails & Greenways Conference

Purpose, Vision & History

The California Trails & Greenways Conference provides trail professionals, advocates, volunteers and users with a venue for sharing practical, up-to-date trail management skills; as well as a forum for networking and building support for accessible, inter-connected, quality trail systems. This investment of knowledge and commitment by trail professionals and citizen advocates will insure stewardship and leadership for generations to come.

This interactive conference forum provides:

- High quality, innovative sessions covering the full range of trail topics, including current issues facing the trails community;
- Day-long workshops with hands-on learning;
- A forum to address the evolving needs of California's trail community;
- Opportunities to network with other trail advocates and build support for local and statewide trail systems; and
- Exhibits of innovative trail-related products and services.

All activities are designed to increase the knowledge of trail, recreational and wild land management professionals and advocates; and improve trail systems and programs throughout California.

About the 2009 Conference:

This year's conference will take place Wednesday, April 22nd through Friday, April 24th at Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite National Park's south entrance. In order to provide trail managing agencies and nonprofits with the tools necessary to address the challenges currently facing California and the nation, we have selected the theme *Sustainable Trails: Linking Economy, Community & Environment*. Within this theme, experts will provide up-to-date workshops and sessions geared toward managing in challenging economic times,

strengthening community support, and encouraging a greater sense of environmental stewardship among all citizens. Both expert and newly-emerging trail leaders attend the Trails Conference in order to learn practical, up-to-date trail management skills.

We anticipate that this will be one of our most successful conferences, drawing nearly 300 trail professionals and enthusiasts. Registration will begin in late February!!

Brief History & Information:

The conference was developed by California State Parks in 1984 to address the needs of trail professionals and trail management entities throughout California. The goal was to provide an opportunity for non-motorized trail professionals and users to meet in an educational setting in order to share and learn about the full range of trail management skills and address current issues. In 1995, the Recreational Trails Conference organization (now the nonprofit California Trails Conference Foundation) was formed to carry out the goals of the conference. The volunteer governing board is made up of two board members and one paid executive manager. The conference is self-funded through its sponsorships, registration fees and in-kind contributions. California State Parks and various local and federal agencies offset much of the conference costs through the donation of staff time and services for planning and implementing the conference.

Hosted by the
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